

Parole/Probation Officers recognized



Ingham County Parole Agent Judy Alexander accepted a Certificate of Special Tribute, on behalf of all Michigan probation and parole officers, from State Senator Virg Bernero at the Ingham County Parole Office.

Senator Bernero visited the office to help agents celebrate Probation and Parole Officers Week and surprised staff with the special tribute, which was signed by the Senator and Governor Granholm.

Governor Jennifer Granholm proclaimed the week of July 17-23 as Probation and Parole Officers Week. This year Director Patricia Caruso and Deputy Director Joan Yukins visited parole and probation offices across the state to personally thank and recognize the officers for their role in maintaining public safety.

In addition, supervisors came up with some clever and thoughtful ways to show their appreciation with events ranging from ice cream socials and car washing to parole/probation trivia games.

FOA Supervisor Sheila M. Genter, honored Mason County, Lake County and Lake TRV Probation/Parole Officers at a staff meeting held at the newly constructed Waterfront Park in Ludington.

The officers were recognized for their dedication, hard work and commitment to investigating and supervising offenders in an effort to make our communities a safer place to live. Events included a desk decorating contest won by TRV Officer Donna Young and Lake County Officers Jo Meyers and Chrysten Gregory. Their designs incorporated the purpose of probation/parole week and they were rewarded with prizes of gas coupons, lottery tickets and a stress ball.

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Parole/Probation Officers recognized

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Supervisor Kirk McVittie and Program Manager John O'Connell wash cars.

exercises at work and ways to adapt to stress. Other events included golf putting and a squirt-gun showdown

At the Parole and Probation Officers Week event at the Berrien County Parole Office, Supervisor Rojelio Castillo read the Proclamation from Governor Granholm and treated staff to root beer floats.

FOA, Region I celebrated the week with breakfasts, brunches, barbeques, pizza parties, potlucks, catered luncheons and ice cream socials. This year the Outer District Parole Office held a staff car wash. The supervisors and program manager actually washed and detailed the agents' automobiles.

Probation/Parole Officers week was recognized and celebrated in the Kalamazoo Probation/Parole/CRP office with an ice cream social.

At the Muskegon Parole Office clerical staff brought in muffins and provided a pizza lunch for agents while Supervisor Kathy Danhof handed out gifts and supplied breakfast.



Macomb staff

In an unusual twist on a trivia game, officers were given 15 minutes to read some articles and statistics on the history of probation and parole. They were then tested on the information. Officer James Urbon won the contest hands down and his efforts earned him a gift certificate to the Java Shop.

Secretary Diane Springer provided each officer with a wellness manual covering healthy food choices, caloric intake,



At the Muskegon Parole Office agents displayed their gifts. (from left) Tasha Lockridge, Joe Kemp, Jason Carlson, Leslie VanDeusen, Don Cole, Jodi Langlois, Dave Pierce, Supervisor Kathy Danhof and Agent Steve Farrel.

Macomb Probation celebrated with a breakfast buffet provided by the clerical staff followed by a motivational speech by Circuit Court Judge Tracey Yokich. The judge recognized the importance of each individual's contribution to the entire criminal justice system at the local, state and national levels. She then collectively administered the oath of office to all of the staff members as a reminder of their commitment to excellence. Each agent received a certificate of appreciation. *fyj*

Steve Britz Memorial Golf Scramble Aug. 19

The fifth annual Steve Britz Golf Scramble will be August 19 at 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Oaks Golf Course in Kincheloe. The nine-hole four-person scramble costs \$30 per person which includes food.

Chances to win include prizes for a hole in one on each of the par threes. On hole number 13 there is a chance to win a new car from O'Connors Chrysler Dodge and Jeep, and on hole number 15 there is a chance to win a trip for two to Hawaii. A 50/50 drawing is planned with over \$4,500 in prizes.

Steve Britz was a corrections officer who passed away from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in March 2005. The proceeds will go to the ALS Foundation, to a college fund for Steve's daughter and to Joe Greengtski who was recently diagnosed with ALS.

Submit your teams to Bill McKay, John Miller or Tom Tessmer at (906) 495-2275 or (906) 632-8546. [flyj](http://www.flyj.com)

Staff enjoyed recreation day



Craig Hutton cleans up at the billiard table.



Texas hold 'em players keep their eye on the dealer.



Ruth Schueller putts while Marge Bossenbery holds the flag.



Registration table volunteers from left Rachel Waterbury, Bill Morrow, Marie Darnell, Christine Navarro, Bertha Anderson and Karen Hubbard. Also volunteering were Paulette Hatchett, Gary Manns, Don Kill, Pam Nelson, Destinie Shipman, Sue Mulford, Mike Draschil and Joe Bengel.

U.P. facilities challenge benefits Red Cross



From left: Warden Linda Metrish and Warden Jeri-Ann Sherry donate for the friendly competition.

Chippewa/Straits correctional facilities recently challenged Kinross/Hiawatha facilities to a competitive blood drive to benefit the American Red Cross.

At stake was the coveted "Traveling Heart Award." A goal of 50 donors was set by the Red Cross. However, an amazing 96 correctional employees participated with 93 units of blood collected. The total included 25 first-time donors.

The hard-fought competition ended in a tie with 48 donors for each team. While the "Traveling Heart Award" will need to be shared this time, the generosity of the staff will help save the lives of up to 280 people. *fyj*

MSI hosted visitors



Deputy Director Barry McLemore and MSI marketing specialist Tujauna White

More than 200 visitors stopped by for a look at Michigan State Industries' products during this year's open house including representatives from a large number of non-state agency, 501(c)3 organizations. Catching lots of attention this year was MSI's new line of church furnishings and refurbishings.

The annual two-day event provides an opportunity for MSI staff to showcase their

manufactured goods to potential customers as well as to department personnel. *fyj*



From left: Don Savolainen, Food Service, Central Office; Luanne Peeper, MSI Inside Sales; Ashley Cowdrey, MSI Student Designer; Gatha McClellan, Food Service Director, Central Office, are wearing aprons produced at Chippewa Correctional Facility stamping plant.



Inspector recognized by Michigan State Police



SMF Personnel Manager Amy Hasbrouck, ADW Mike Curley, Inspector Fred Lockwood, Deputy Warden Barb Meagher, SRF Inspector Fred Funston and SRF Warden Jan Trombley

the East Tawas Post reopened the investigation. A lead was developed by Det. Lesneski based on a tip from two Iosco County Sheriff Deputies.

Inspector Lockwood took the lead in extensive investigation and interviewing of a suspect housed at the facility which led to solving the case. The State Police were very appreciative of the MDOC's assistance in this case. "I am very grateful for the award. The State Police cooperation in this case was outstanding," said Inspector Lockwood.

"We are very proud of the work that Fred does and he is the type of individual that always goes above and beyond in his duties," said Deputy Warden Meagher. *FYJ*

Standish Maximum Correctional Facility (SMF) Inspector, Fred Lockwood, was recently recognized by the Michigan State Police for his role in helping solve a cold case murder in Iosco County. Saginaw Correctional Facility (SRF) Inspector Fred Funston was also recognized.

The case involved a 1993 homicide of a bowhunter in Iosco County. The bowhunter was shot while he was in his tree stand and was found approximately one week later under the tree.

Initially, it was believed to be an accidental death but was determined to be a homicide after closer examination of the partially decomposed body.

The case was inactive for a number of years until Detective Sgt. Robert Lesneski from

Budget Update

A revenue estimating conference set for August 17 may improve the outlook for the state's next fiscal year budget if the state tax revenue turns out to be higher than expected.

While Director Caruso continues to meet with legislators to discuss the corrections budget, the earliest that any action could be taken on an actual bill would be August 14 when both chambers are back in session. *FYJ*

Personal responsibility has no rank

“My job is the most difficult in corrections!” At one time or another, each of us believes that to be true of our position. Of course, we all have different tasks. But, we all have the same level of accountability for our own actions while at work.

Personal responsibility on the job has no rank. From the officer cadet to the Director, everyone has an obligation to achieve an acceptable level of excellence.

That is very crucial for the well-being of our profession. It is a grass roots effort to maintain or improve positive behavior for the ultimate goal of success in corrections. Without personal responsibility, we have lowered expectations and increased mistakes.

Our personal responsibility on the job is like a building project. A structure is commonly built upon four cornerstones. This foundation defines the size of the ground-work, sets parameters and suggests the direction of the walls.

Our jobs are based on cornerstones (or actions) as well. The four cornerstones of personal responsibility on the job are: Active, Reactive, Operative and Narrative.

Active – This is our everyday behavior toward colleagues at our worksite. It represents our baseline personality. Overall, how would co-workers categorize your baseline personality? For example, are you passive, assertive, combative, optimistic or realistic? Essentially, it is up to you. Only you can form your basic work persona.

Reactive – This is how we respond to the action of colleagues. To understand this, think of how you react when a colleague insults you. Do you act in a way that would mitigate staff division while also securing respect? Your reaction to others is entirely in your hands.

Operative – Do we perform our jobs competently? How do you treat those who are left in your care and under your scrutiny? Do you follow policy and procedure? The department’s professional excellence originates from individual efforts.

Narrative – When you consider narration, you think of how a story is told. The narrative phase is how we relate our version of our story to those outside of corrections.

Each time we talk about corrections to a neighbor, relative or friend, we become representatives to the public. The tone and content of our information has a lasting impression on others’ perceptions. Therefore, we have a personal duty to speak responsibly.

The benefits of elevated personal responsibility at work are many. Through the influence of a conscientious person, a higher level of service occurs. Many colleagues may follow a single positive example. Consistency of operation flows from this type of behavior. With this uniformity, safety increases. Staff and inmates know what to expect from you. There is security in predictability. Staff burnout, mistakes, and resignations decrease as staff unity coalesces around common goals. As efficiency increases, taxpayers get more value for their tax dollars.

Cooperation in corrections is crucial. Yet the individual is a building block for the team. The four cornerstones of personal responsibility form the foundation from which we can build the perfect corrections structure. Remember, the individual is a component of the team. And, those who exercise good habits as individuals strengthen the entire group.



*By Joe Bouchard,
Librarian, Baraga
Maximum Correctional
Facility*

fyj

Ionia Free Fair offers DOC display



Michigan State Industries provided a sample of the products produced in the MSI factories.

agency Response Team, Michigan State Industries, education, vocational and career technology, food, health, recreation and chaplain services, the Prison Build Program and the Michigan Corrections Organization. *F.Y.I.*

Once again DOC staff provided an outstanding exhibit at the Ionia Free Fair. Visitors traveled through the display which included representatives from recruitment, the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative, custody and security, the Emer-



Cabinets crafted in the Prison Build Program were a highlight of the display.

Bellamy Creek Relay for Life



The Bellamy Creek Relay for Life Team (IBC staff members and their families) participated in a 24-hour walk at the Ionia High School track on July 8 and 9. The annual Ionia County walk is held to raise cancer awareness and the money goes to cancer research.

This year, the Bellamy Creek team raised \$15,672.27 from a combination of their annual golf tournament, cookouts, casual days, bake sales and candy bar sales. Their contribution totalled \$2,000 more than the previous year. The team finished second in the entire county. *F.Y.I.*

Quinlan assists busloads of 4-H kids

Recently, James Quinlan, Parole Board member, stopped on the highway to render assistance to not one, but two, broken-down buses full of 4-H kids heading down to MSU for Exploration Days. He assisted in getting the kids off the buses and welcomed onto a nearby farm where they were able to hydrate and wait in a shaded area until help in the form of new buses arrived. Coincidentally Linda Jones from the Baraga Correctional Facility records office had children aboard the buses. She and the other parents of the 4-H children from Baraga, Houghton and Gogebic counties were very appreciative of Quinlan's help. *F.Y.I.*

Work/Life Web page goes live

A new Work/Life Web page now offers a wealth of information and available resources on maintaining a healthy balance between work and home. In today's fast paced life styles, employees are faced with heavier work loads and longer hours at work, while at the same time trying to balance time for personal lives including family, friends and outside activities of interest and commitment.

It is easy to get caught up in all the hustle and bustle, and with no one to remind us to slow down, it becomes difficult to maintain a healthy Work/Life balance. Part of achieving balance is reducing stress, maintaining wellness, and achieving goals. Issues such as: Family, Childcare, Eldercare, Physical Fitness, Mental Fitness, Financial Services, Legal Services, Stress Management, and Domestic Violence are addressed on the Work/Life Web page.

For more information about Work/Life Services, call Rosanne LeLand, M.S.W., A.C.S.W. at (800) 521-1377 or (517) 373-7630.

To access the Work/Life Web page go to: www.michigan.gov/corrections, click on Human Resources, and click on Work/Life Services. Following are some additional resources for each of the areas:

- **Family**, Parenting Awareness Michigan, www.preventionnetwork.org
- **Childcare**, The Michigan 4C Association, www.mi4c.org
- **Eldercare**, Office of Services to the Aging, www.miseniors.net
- **Physical Fitness**, Michigan Steps Up, www.michiganstepsup.org
- **Mental Fitness**, Employee Service Program, www.michigan.gov/esp
- **Domestic Violence**, Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence, www.mcadsv.org

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New faces of excellence have been posted to the Governor's Web page. Visit:
www.michigan.gov/gov.

Select: *State Employees* and then visit *Day in the Life* and *Staff Recognition* for highlights of DOC and other department personnel. *fyj*